

CLAIMS

1. Method for approving a password corresponding to a user identifier in a user identification system in which the user identifier is associated with a user profile and the password consists of characters comprised in a total range of characters, characterised in that a data item indicating whether the password should contain a character belonging to a predefined subset in the total range of characters is added to the user profile.

2. Method as defined in claim 1, characterised in that a data item indicating a minimum number of characters belonging to a predefined subset in the total range of characters that are to be included in the password is added to the user profile.

3. Method as defined in claim 1 or 2, characterised in that a check is performed in the user identification system to verify whether the number of characters belonging to a predefined subset in the total range of characters that are included in the password is as required in the user profile.

4. Method as defined in any one of claims 1 - 3, characterised in that, when a password is being changed, a check is performed before approval of the new password to verify the number of characters in the password that belong to a predefined subset in the total range of characters.

5. System for approving a password corresponding to a user identifier in a user identification system in which the user identifier is associated with a user profile and in which the password consists of characters comprised in a total range of characters, characterised in that the user identification system comprises means (1) for adding to the user profile a data item indicating the presence in the password of a character belonging to a predefined subset in the total range of characters.

6. System as defined in claim 5, characterised in that the user identification system comprises means (2) for adding to the user profile a data item indicating a minimum number of characters belonging to a predefined subset in the total range of characters that should be included in the password.

7. System as defined in claim 5 or 6, characterised in that the user identification system comprises means (3) for comparing and verifying the number of characters in the password that belong to a predefined subset in the total range of characters and the number of characters required in the user profile.

8. System as defined in any one of claims 5 - 7, characterised in that the user identification system comprises means (4) for checking the password to verify the number of characters belonging to a predefined subset in the total range of characters when a password is being changed, before the new password is approved.